

Charity number: 1093455

Company number: 4463793

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees of The London Philharmonic Choir ('the Choir') are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and are pleased to present the report and unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020.

The unaudited financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts, and comply with the Choir's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019 ('the Charities SORP (FRS 102)').

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Choir's principal aim and objective is to promote, improve, develop and maintain education in the appreciation and knowledge of the art and science of music by the presentation of public concerts. In order to achieve this, the Choir gives public choral performances, principally but not exclusively, in association with professional orchestras; it also promotes, organises and/or performs in other cultural and educational activities relevant to the study and appreciation of music, and undertakes such other things in furtherance of its objectives, or which are conducive or incidental thereto.

Membership of the Choir is subject to audition initially and on an ongoing basis, to maintain the Choir's high standards. Auditions are open to all and members are not required to pay an annual subscription. The members receive no remuneration and give their time for free.

The Choir affords members the opportunity to rehearse and perform together to a very high standard and regularly performs with world class conductors and orchestras at public venues in the UK and abroad. The Choir has a current membership of around 300 singers but the numbers performing on any given occasion vary according to the venue and repertoire concerned.

In addition to large scale concerts, performances are sometimes given in smaller-scale venues which both extends the audience base and gives members a chance to explore and develop in different repertoire. The Choir also engages in relevant charity and educational activities in furtherance of its objectives.

The Choir's purposes are for the public benefit and the Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit including the guidance, "Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)" when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity and in planning future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Choir's 2019-20 season got off to a busy and exciting start with a performance at the 2019 BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, alongside seven other choirs, for the European premiere of John Luther Adams' *In the name of the Earth*. This was followed by six concerts alongside the London Philharmonic Orchestra ("LPO") at the Royal Festival Hall during the Autumn of 2019 and January 2020. These concerts included Verdi's *Requiem* under the baton of Edward Gardner, Elgar's *Apostles* under the baton of Martyn Brabbins, Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* under the baton of Marin Alsop, and Poulenc's *Seven Tenebrae Responses* with Faure's *Requiem* conducted by Bertrand de Billy. The soprano and alto voices also performed in Holsts' *Planets* under the baton of Thomas Adès. The Choir was delighted to join forces with the London Youth Choir as they joined us for a performance of Mahler's *Symphony No 2* in a concert featuring Colin Matthews' *Metamorphosis* under the baton of Vladimir Jurowski. Additionally the Choir joined the LPO in two recordings, including Vladimir Martynov's *Utopia*, also conducted by Vladimir Jurowski.

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In addition to the range of more 'serious' classical concerts, the Choir also performed in concerts and recordings during the year involving more popular classics and excerpts, and music for the festive period. The Choir regards these as an important addition to its programme as they are always very well received by audiences who would not necessarily be attracted to the former style of concert, and who often find a new interest in classical music through hearing popular excerpts. Concerts of popular classics and festive music are always greatly enjoyed by audience and Choir members alike.

The latter part of the season saw unprecedented difficulties for the performing arts in general, as concert halls and other venues closed as the result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Choir's planned live concerts and engagements for that period with the LPO and other orchestras were cancelled. The Choir has therefore focussed on recorded and virtual performances during this latter period, bringing music appreciation to sizeable on-line audiences. Virtual performances included Paul Finckham's *Awen*, premiered by the Choir at the British Museum in 2018, in celebration of Midsummer's Day. The Choir has continued to engage with members through regular virtual rehearsals and membership events.

The Choir has maintained a strong membership base during the year and has continued to focus on marketing and recruitment, and retention of members. Individuals seeking to join the Choir are welcomed at a trial rehearsal and then encouraged to audition, with auditions continuing to take place remotely. Applicants for auditions come from a very wide range of backgrounds, and include younger singers who want to develop their interest in choral music, as well as some more experienced singers seeking to widen their repertoire and experience under the expert guidance of the Choir's Artistic Director. The Choir affords members the opportunity to enjoy performing well known pieces with world class orchestras under the diverse direction of world class conductors, and the challenge of exploring new or less well known works.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year income from donations, charitable activities and investments amounted to £81,298, increased from £65,264 for the year ended 31 August 2019. This increase principally reflects increased income from performances given, partially offset by a reduction in tour income.

Expenditure on charitable activities and governance costs for the year amounted to £68,615, an increase from £61,742 for the year ended 31 August 2019. This reflects an increase in the direct costs of performances given and other costs, partially offset by a reduction in support costs.

The increased level of income from performance fees and royalties in the current period reflects the different mix of concerts and concert repertoire as compared with the previous year.

The net income for the year and net movement in funds amounted to £12,683 (2019: net income of £3,522). The balance of funds, which were all unrestricted funds, stood at £142,087 at the balance sheet date (2019: £129,404).

The Trustees are responsible for the management of risks faced by the Choir. They consider that the major risks are that the level of Choir membership and the standard of performances given is not maintained, and that fee-paying performance opportunities for the Choir are not available, and have taken steps to mitigate exposure to these risks. They are continuing to focus on recruitment and retention of members and maintaining high performance standards, and maintaining and developing relationships with orchestras and promoters to provide performance opportunities. The Choir has adapted to the changed circumstances during the latter part of the year by undertaking recorded and virtual performances, and remote rehearsals, auditions and member events. The Trustees' policy is to seek to hold a minimum of £90,000 in unrestricted funds as free reserves, to enable the Choir to fund a number

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of concerts and ongoing costs during periods when fee-paying concerts may not be provided by orchestras or promoters.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Choir had an exciting and varied schedule of concerts and engagements planned for the 2020-21 season, including eight concerts with the LPO. However, with coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in place, those concerts and engagements have been cancelled. The Choir has nevertheless undertaken several recorded and virtual performances, including Rachmaninoff's *Bogoroditse Devo*, marking World Homeless Day in support of homeless charity, The Passage. The Choir is maintaining engagement with members through regular virtual rehearsals and membership events, and continues to welcome new members.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has brought into sharp focus the significance of the performing arts, and music in particular, in our daily lives and its importance for health and wellbeing. The Choir looks forward to being able to return to performing in front of live audiences to bring the joy and healing powers of live choral music into concert halls and other venues again, and especially to performing with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. The Choir has conducted risk assessments and has plans in place to return to in-person rehearsals and performances when it is safe and appropriate to do so, and will continue to engage in virtual performances and activities in the meantime.

The Choir continues to maintain and develop relationships with orchestras and promoters, and to focus on recruitment and retention of members and maintaining high performance standards.

The Choir has plans for a busy and diverse 2021-22 season including performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Choir is a Charitable Company governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 April 2014 and is limited by guarantee.

The Choir is managed by a committee of members, who fulfil specific roles as determined from time to time. All of the committee members are trustees and directors of the charitable company. Committee members are elected to the committee by Choir members, and appointed as trustees and directors, at the Annual General Meeting, to hold office for the period of one year. In the event of a trustee resigning mid-year, a replacement may be elected by members, or appointed by the trustees, to hold office until the following AGM. The committee resigns office at each AGM, and all committee members are eligible for re-election as trustees in accordance with the company's constitution.

The Choir's Artistic Director and the piano accompanist receive fees in their professional capacity from the Choir. Choir members who are not trustees provide help and assistance with the day to day running of the Choir. No committee member or Choir member is remunerated by the Choir, but expenditure incurred by committee members or other Choir members in fulfilling their obligations to the Choir may be reimbursed.

Upon appointment, new committee members are provided with a copy of the Choir Rules, Memorandum and Articles of Association, most recent statutory accounts and minutes of recent committee meetings, and a formal handover takes place with the former holder of their post. Informal training and induction is provided to new committee members by existing committee members on an ongoing basis, and particularly so during the first six months of their appointment.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity no: 1093455

Company no: 4463793

Registered office and principal address

Hinde Street Methodist Church
19 Thayer Street
London W1U 2QJ

Independent Examiner

James Cross
For and on behalf of
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London EC1M 7AD

Secretary

Martyn Atkins

The current Trustees, and those who served during the year, together with their roles on the committee are noted below. There are no corporate trustees.

Tessa Bartley	Chairman	(re-appointed March 2020)
Bethea Hanson-Jones	Choir Manager	(re-appointed March 2020)
Martyn Atkins	Honorary Secretary	(appointed March 2020)
Katharine Blankenship	Honorary Secretary	(resigned March 2020)
Susan Thomas	Honorary Treasurer	(re-appointed March 2020)
Jennifer Cresswell	Marketing Manager	(appointed March 2020)
Rachel Topham	Marketing Manager	(resigned March 2020)
Joy Lee	Membership Co-ordinator	(re-appointed March 2020)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of The London Philharmonic Choir for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom New Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.)

Company law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

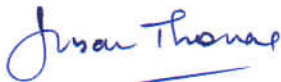
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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report and unaudited accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective January 2019 (FRS 102) and with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective January 2019 ("the Charities SORP (FRS 102)").

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Susan Thomas FCA CTA

London Philharmonic Choir
Company limited by guarantee, Company number 4463793

Date *25 February 2021*

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR ('THE COMPANY')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

James Cross FCA DChA
For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London EC1M 7AD

Date 26 February 2021

**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Unrestricted Funds			
Income and Endowments from:-			
Donations		100	-
Charitable activities	2	80,070	63,917
Investments		1,128	1,347
Total Income		81,298	65,264
Expenditure on:-			
Charitable activities	3	68,615	61,742
Total Expenditure		68,615	61,742
Net income for the year and net movement in funds		12,683	3,522
Total funds brought forward (all unrestricted funds)		129,404	125,882
Total funds carried forward (all unrestricted funds)		142,087	129,404

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets			
Stock of music and goods for resale		1,378	2,180
Debtors	5	1,399	18,296
Investments	6	40,000	30,000
Cash at bank and in hand	6	103,935	98,998
		146,712	149,474
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(4,625)	(20,070)
Total net assets		142,087	129,404
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		142,087	129,404
Total charity funds		142,087	129,404

For the year ended 31 August 2020 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

No notice to the directors requiring an audit has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year, and of its income and expenditure for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act.

Authorised for issue by the board on 25 February 2021

and signed on its behalf by **Susan Thomas FCA CTA**

Susan Thomas

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019 ("the Charities SORP (FRS 102)"), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019 ("FRS 102").

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest pound.

b Going concern

The Choir has adapted to the changed environment and reduced opportunities for the performance of choral music during the latter part of the year, brought about by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, by utilising virtual and remote performance and rehearsal methods. The Trustees consider that audiences and choir members are keen to return to live performances of choral music, and there are plans in place for the Choir to do so when it is safe and appropriate. The Choir is maintaining engagement with its strong membership base, and has significant unrestricted reserves. The Trustees are satisfied with the Choir's ability to continue as a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis.

c Income

Income is recognised when receipt is probable. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised with the donation to which it relates. Interest on bank deposits is recognised as income from investments on a receivable basis.

d Donated services

Services donated by Trustees and other Choir members as volunteers have not been recognised as either income or expenditure as the Trustees consider that the contribution cannot be measured reliably or without undue cost.

e Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. As the charity has only one charitable activity, all support costs are allocated to that charitable activity. Governance costs represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

f Transactions in foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies included in the statement of financial activities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the closing rates at the balance sheet date and exchange differences are included in the statement of financial activities.

g Stocks

The Choir holds selected musical scores for performances and for sale to Choir members. Members are required to purchase music folders for use during performances and a stock of these, and selected promotional goods, is held by the charity. Closing stocks are reflected at the lower of historical cost and realisable value.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

h Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within s 466-493 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and s 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

i Critical estimates and judgements

In preparing the financial statements no judgements or estimates were required that would have a significant effect on the amounts recognised.

j Financial instruments

i. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.

ii. Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their transaction price.

2 Income from charitable activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Performance fees and royalties	78,506	60,040
Tour income	-	2,020
Income from sale and hire of music and related products	1,564	1,857
	80,070	63,917

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Performance Costs	57,275	8,975	66,250	60,324
<u>Direct Costs</u>				
Choir Conductors and Accompanists			36,534	28,156
Hall Hire			16,878	15,323
Miscellaneous performance costs			865	500
Music Costs			2,925	5,127
Travel and tour costs			73	1,903
			57,275	51,009
	Total 2020	Governance element 2020	Total 2019	Governance element 2019
<u>Support Costs</u>				
AGM costs	-	-	345	345
Bank charges and interest	40	-	77	-
Choir welfare	2,258	-	1,959	-
Independent Examiner's fees	2,350	2,350	2,325	2,325
Insurance and subscriptions	563	-	558	-
Marketing and promotion	1,125	-	1,009	-
Miscellaneous expenses	-	-	13	13
Music library costs	2,338	-	2,708	-
Printing, postage and stationery	251	-	321	-
Travel expenses	50	-	-	-
	8,975	2,350	9,315	2,683
Other Costs			2020	2019
Music and related products sold/hired			1,065	1,418
Donations			1,300	-
			2,365	1,418
Total Costs			£ 68,615	£ 61,742

During the year a donation of £1,200 was made to the London Youth Choir Chamber Choir scholarship fund, and £100 to the Royal Festival Hall in memory of a former member of the London Philharmonic Choir.

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4 Staff costs; trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses; related party transactions

There were no employees during the year. Trustees, who are considered to be key management personnel, and other Choir members involved in the day to day running of the Choir give their time for free. None of the trustees received remuneration during the year. Expenditure incurred by trustees and other Choir members in fulfilling their obligations to the Choir may be reimbursed. During the year one trustee was reimbursed expenses incurred for travel totalling £207 (2019: two trustees were reimbursed expenses for travel and subsistence totalling £85).

Trustees engage in Choir activities on the same basis as other members. During the year the charity received no donations from trustees (2019: the charity received no donations from trustees). There were no other related party transactions requiring disclosure during the year.

5 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	254	1,060
Prepayments and accrued income	1,145	17,236
	<u>1,399</u>	<u>18,296</u>

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Included in the above are financial assets of £1,003 (2019:£2,005).

6 Investments and Cash at bank and in hand

Investments comprise bank deposits with a maturity of less than one year from the balance sheet date and are valued at the realisable amount at the balance sheet date.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash and bank deposits held to meet short term commitments and are valued at the amount of cash held.

7 Creditors

	2020 £	2019 £
Taxation and Social Security	-	254
Accruals and deferred income	4,625	19,816
	<u>4,625</u>	<u>20,070</u>

Creditors are measured at their settlement amount.

Included in the above are financial liabilities of £4,625 (2019: £19,816)